

to the Colorado River; thence up that stream to the Navajo Reservation, and that the improvements of settlers therein be purchased.

This office under date of July 15, 1899, submitted to the Department a full report upon the recommendations made by the inspector and stated that in view of all the facts and circumstances surrounding the case it was constrained to the opinion that it would be unwise to extend the boundaries of the Navajo Reservation as indicated by the inspector, and recommended that they be not so extended.

Under date of August 29, 1899, you addressed a second letter to this office stating that after further consideration of the report of United States Indian Inspector McLaughlin relative to the extension of the Navajo Indian Reservation, in Arizona, in connection with said office report of the 15th of July last, you were satisfied, taking into consideration the interests of both the Indians and the whites, that the reservation should be enlarged as recommended by the inspector, provided Congress will appropriate the necessary money to purchase the improvements of the settlers living within the tract sought to be added to the reservation.

You therefore requested that copies of Inspector McLaughlin's report and the accompanying papers be prepared, together with an estimate of the appropriation necessary for the purpose named for transmission by the Department to Congress, adding that, if Congress shall appropriate the money necessary to pay the settlers, the reservation can then be enlarged by Executive order, as recommended by the inspector.

In connection with this subject, I have the honor to state that it is thought that it would be wise to ask Congress to enlarge the reservation, as proposed by the inspector, at the same time that appropriation is asked for to pay the settlers for their improvements. If this should not be done other parties might go upon the proposed addition between the date of the approval of the act making the appropriation referred to and the date of the issuance of an Executive order for the purpose indicated, thus causing further trouble and confusion in the matter and the necessity for an additional appropriation to purchase their improvements and whatever rights might be acquired by them.

I have therefore caused to be prepared the draft of a bill (transmitted herewith), establishing the boundaries of the addition to the Navajo Indian Reservation, and making appropriation for the purchase of the improvements thereon of certain settlers. This draft is in duplicate. I have also caused to be prepared duplicate copies of Inspector McLaughlin's report and the accompanying papers. They are transmitted herewith. I inclose, also, a copy of this report, in duplicate, for your use.

If the action taken by this office upon the matter under consideration meets with your approval, I have the honor to recommend that one copy of the inclosed draft of bill, a copy of the inspector's said report, and the accompanying papers be forwarded to the House and Senate for the consideration of each.

Inspector McLaughlin's report (original), the agreement with the settlers and the papers accompanying the same, are also transmitted herewith. It is thought that copies only should be forwarded to Congress, and that the originals should be returned to this office when the Department shall have given the matter final consideration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. A. JONES, *Commissioner*.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, D. C., January 5, 1900.

The PRESIDENT:

For several years past it has been manifest to the Department that the Navajo Reservation is inadequate to supply water and grass for the herds of the Indians, and many of them, perhaps one-third of the tribe, for that reason have been habitually off the reservation on the public domain, where they are in frequent conflict with whites over the grazing of their herds.

Various officials of the Department within the past year or two have recommended an enlargement of the reservation by extending it westwardly, within certain defined boundaries. But the physical characteristics of the proposed extended area were until recently unknown to the Department, and no action looking to an addition to the reservation was taken until March 14, 1899, when Indian Inspector James McLaughlin was directed to proceed to the reservation, and go carefully over the ground, and report all information necessary to enable the Department to act intelligently upon the question of enlargement, with such recommendations as in his judgment